

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims 2, 3, 5, and 7 is set forth below. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (cancelled), (currently amended), or (previously presented). Please AMEND claims 2 and 7 in accordance with the following:

1. (cancelled)
2. (currently amended) An acoustic signal processor, comprising:  
an input unit into which acoustic signals are input;  
a detector detecting a frequency band having a highest energy level among frequency bands comprising the acoustic signals input into the input unit; and  
a variable equalizer, which is able to amplify a limited frequency range and the limitation of the frequency range is variable, maintaining the energy level of the acoustic signals input into the input unit substantially at a constant level for frequency bands lower than the frequency band detected by the detector, and increasing the amplification degree of the energy level of the acoustic signals input into the input unit as the frequency increases for the frequency bands higher than the frequency band detected by the detector,  
wherein the variable equalizer has a 6 db/octave high pass filter characteristic.
3. (previously presented) An acoustic signal processor, comprising:  
an input unit into which acoustic signals are input;  
a detector detecting a frequency band having a highest energy level among frequency bands comprising the acoustic signals input into the input unit;  
a variable equalizer maintaining the energy level of the acoustic signals input into the input unit substantially at a constant level for frequency bands lower than the frequency band detected by the detector, and increasing the amplification degree of the energy level of the acoustic signals input into the input unit as the frequency increases for the frequency bands higher than the frequency band detected by the detector; and  
a delay circuit at an input side of the variable equalizer to provide a delay time, corresponding to a response delay time unique to the variable equalizer, to the input acoustic signals.
4. (cancelled)
5. (previously presented) An acoustic signal processor, comprising:

an input unit into which acoustic signals are input;  
a detector detecting a frequency band having a highest energy level among frequency bands comprising the acoustic signals input into the input unit; and  
a variable equalizer maintaining the energy level of the acoustic signals input into the input unit substantially at a constant level for frequency bands lower than the frequency band detected by the detector, and increasing the amplification degree of the energy level of the acoustic signals input into the input unit as the frequency increases for the frequency bands higher than the frequency band detected by the detector,  
wherein a rise frequency of the variable equalizer shifts to a low frequency side as the energy level of the input acoustic signals decreases, and the rise frequency of the variable equalizer shifts to a high frequency side as the energy level of the input acoustic signals increases.

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) The acoustic signal processor according to claim 3, wherein the response time of the variable equalizer is 5 msec or less when a high pass filter characteristic shifts to a high frequency side from the frequency band detected by the detector, and is 10 msec or less when the high pass filter characteristic shifts to a low frequency side from the frequency band detected by the detector.

8. (cancelled)